

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 /031 W
-----081223Z 071069 /22

R 081116Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7553
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONGEN DHAHRAN

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USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, INA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW (FEB. 27 - MAR. 6)

REF.: JIDDA 1616 (NOTAL), JIDDA 1752 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION EDITORIALS ON SECRETARY VANCE'S RECENT VISIT TO RIYADH AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTEMPT TO BLOCK HAWK MISSILE SALE (REPORTED IN REFTELS), FOLLOWING U.S.-RELATED THEMES APPEARED IN LAST WEEK'S SAUDI PRESS: U.S./ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP, PORPOSED ANTI-ARAB BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND DOUBT OF ISRAELI DESIRE FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS ALSO RAN THREE-PART REPRINT OF BRZEZINSKI'S FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICY PIECE, "AMERICA IN A HOSTILE WORLD", CALLING IT "HIS MOST RECENT -- AND PERHAPS MOST ELOQUENT -- DECLARATION OF HIS BELIEFS." END SUMMARY.

2. U.S./ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP

3/2 AR-RIYADH DAILY - "WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT WHEN ISRAEL DECIDES ON ANY ACTION IN ITS CONFLICT WITH THE

ARABS, IT ONLY ALLOWS THE U.S. TO ASSIST IT (I.E. NOT UN)
AND SIMILARLY, ISRAEL BELIEVES THAT NO ONE BUT SHE CAN
PUT PRESSURE ON WASHINGTON. THE ARABS WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE
IN THE U.S. IF THEY PRESENT A UNITED FRONT..."

3. PROPOSED ANTI-ARAB BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

3/4 AL-YAMAMA WEEKLY COMMENTS THAT IF LEGISLATION IS
PASSED, WILL CAUSE A GREAT DEAL OF HARM TO U.S. COMPANIES
IN ARAB WORLD AND WILL EFFECT U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST DESPITE SECRETARY VANCE'S REPORTED STATEMENT
TO THE CONTRARY. ALSO DISAGREES WITH SECRETARY'S REPORTED
VIEW THAT LEGISLATION WILL NOT EFFECT MIDDLE EAST PEACE
EFFORT -- "IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO TRUST U.S.
MOVEMENTS TOWARD PEACE IN AREA IF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
TAKES A HARSH STAND ON THE BOYCOTT ISSUE".

2/27 ARAB NEWS SAYS "ASSUMING IT IS PASSED, AND ALL
INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT WILL, ...IT WILL HURT U.S.
BUSINESS AND ATRAIN AMERICAN-ARAB RELATIONS. AND IN
PURE ECONOMIC TERMS, EVEN ISRAEL WILL BENEFIT LITTLE
FROM IT: NO ONE CAN LEGISLATE TO FORCE PRIVAATE COMPANIES
TO DEAL WITH A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
COULD NOT BE OBLIVIOUS TO ALL THESE FACTORS BUT IN
GOING AHEAD WITH ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION, IT MAY BE
GAMBLING AWAY A LITTLE ARAB FRIENDSHIP IN RETURN FOR
STRONGER LEVERAGE WITH ISRAEL AS IT PUSHES TEL AVIV
TOWARD THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. EVEN IF THIS ARGUMENT
LEGITIMATE, ARABS SHOULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT IT.
ALL THEY CAN SEE IS AN AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO FAVOR ISRAEL
AT THEIR EXPENSE."

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4. DOUBT ISRAELI DESIR FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE

MOHAMMED ZAIDAN IN 3/4 AL-YAMAMA WEEKLY SAYS ONLY ISRAEL
AND USSR DO NOT WISH A GENEVA CONFERENCE; "(ISRAEL) HAS
MANAGED TO POSTPONE THE CONFERENCE, CONTINUES TO BUILD
MORE SETTLEMENTS IN DISPUTED AREA AND TO THREATEN SOUTH
LEBANON, IS ANXIOUS FOR A FIFTH WAR SINCE IT IS CERTAIN
U.S. WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO BE DEFEATED." USSR WISHES THE
SITUATION TO REMAIN UNSETTLED, WITH U.S. COMMITTED TO
DEFENSE OF ISRAEL AND THUS UNABLE TO PUSH THE SOVIETS
OUT OF AREA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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